

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figs. 1 and 2 as follows:

See appended drawings, wherein the legend "Prior Art" has been added thereto.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-39 are currently pending. Claims 1, 9, 17, 23 and 29 are independent. Claims 1-36 and 38 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claim 38 is amended to overcome the rejection thereof based upon 35 U.S.C. §112.

Figs. 1 and 2 are amended as suggested by the Examiner.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 7-9, 11, 15-17, 19, 23, 25, 29, 31, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art, (hereinafter, merely "AAPA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,002 to Bremer et al, (hereinafter, merely "Bremer") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,795,917 to Ylonen et al, (hereinafter, merely "Ylonen").

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“data reception means for receiving data transmitted from the transmitter communication node to a first receiver communication node, with the transmitted data being formatted in a first format;

format conversion means comprising at least one format converter each used for converting said first format of the transmitted data received by the reception means at least in part to a second format; and determining a communication route, based on

a format conversion parameter relating to the first format of the transmitted data received by the reception means.” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Bremer relates to a method and apparatus for determining the next router to which a data packet is transmitted on its way to a destination host by traversing a routing table using a hardware search engine and a unique search tree. The step of traversing each node in the search tree takes one memory cycle. A decision bit for each node is stored in its parent node rather than in the node itself.

As understood by Applicants, Ylonen relates to a method for packet authentication between a sending node and a receiving node in a network in the presence of network address translations and protocol conversions. Transformations occurring to a packet en route between the sending node and the receiving node are discovered dynamically. The discovered transformations are checked to be acceptable based on the applicable security policy, and the dynamically discovered, acceptable transformations are compensated for before authenticating packets transmitted from the sending node to the receiving node.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of AAPA, Bremer and Ylonen does not teach or suggest data reception means for receiving data transmitted from the transmitter communication node to a first receiver communication node, with the transmitted data being formatted in a first format; and format conversion means comprising at least one

format converter each used for converting said first format of the transmitted data received by the reception means at least in part to a second format. Nor does this combination determine a communication route, based on a format conversion parameter relating to the first format of the transmitted data received by the reception means, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 9 and 29 are also believed to be patentable.

Claim 17 recites, *inter alia*:

“route control means for determining a communication route, based on

a format of the data received by the reception means, and/or

a format conversion parameter associated with a type of format conversion of another communication node; and

transmission means for transmitting the transmitted data received by the reception means to a third communication node based upon the format of the received data, and in accordance with the communication route determined by the route control means.” (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of AAPA, Bremer and Ylonen does not teach or suggest route control means for determining a communication route, based on a format of the data received by the reception means, and/or a format conversion parameter associated with a type of format conversion of another communication node. Nor does this combination suggest transmission means that transmits the data received by the reception means to a third communication node based upon the format of the received data, and

in accordance with the communication route determined by the route control means, as recited in claim 17.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 17, independent claim 23 is also believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

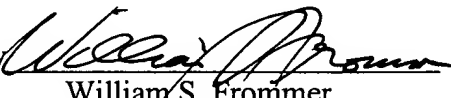
Claims 1-39 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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